

Virginia Department of Health (VDH)

Division of Disease Prevention (DDP)

Monthly Ebulletin



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August 2017 Edition

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Affordable Care Act (ACA) Open Enrollment

The 2018 ACA Open Enrollment Period is from November 1, 2017 until December 15, 2017. This is a **shortened 45-day open enrollment period**. The Virginia (VA) AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) reached out to the Bureau of Insurance and obtained preliminary 2018 ACA plan information. VA ADAP will begin communication with clients to make them aware of the 45-day time frame. VA ADAP will communicate with stakeholders and clients once approved VDH plans have been selected.

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ADAP Update

Please note that updated ADAP application and recertification materials are available on DDP's [website](#).

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Hepatitis C (HCV)/HIV Co-Infected Treatment Assistance Program

A total of 86 clients have accessed the HCV/HIV treatment assistance program. Eight clients are currently in treatment, while 73 clients have completed therapy. Five clients did not complete treatment.

VDH has purchased a stock of Harvoni, and there are eight treatment slots available. Please refer to the [ADAP website](#) for enrollment materials or program information.

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Enhancing Retention in HIV Care in Virginia: A packet for HIV care providers to promote retention in HIV care

In July 2017, DDP completed an informational packet, “Enhancing Retention in HIV Care in Virginia,” for HIV care and treatment providers. It includes Virginia-specific data arranged by health region for persons living with HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. Other resources are included to improve patient linkage and retention in HIV care.

HIV surveillance data from DDP show that approximately 44% of persons living with HIV in Virginia had no evidence of HIV care during 2015. Many persons living with HIV have special needs including housing, employment, and substance use and mental health treatment which make it difficult for them to engage in HIV care. Consistent sharing of timely and complete data between DDP and healthcare providers will allow for determining which patients are out of care and need re-engagement services. The packet provides updates on resources and details about DDP materials available for providers. DDP will pilot the provider packet during the fall of 2017.

If your clinic or facility is interested in participating in the pilot, please contact [Safere Diawara](#) at (804) 864-8021.

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The Rising Tide of Syphilis: Coming to a Patient near You

Dr. Gail Bolan, Director of the Division of STD Prevention, recently published a piece in Medscape. Dr. Bolan highlighted that reported rates of primary and secondary syphilis are the highest that they have been in more than 20 years. She states that “rates have increased in every region, in a majority of age groups, and across almost every race/ethnicity.” Dr. Bolan lays out what the provider community can do to stem the tide of increasing rates of syphilis, including congenital syphilis. To read the full piece, create a free account on Medscape [here](#).



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Integrated Planning

The Community HIV Planning Group (CHPG) met on August 17, 2017. The CHPG is an advisory committee for DDP on issues relating to HIV prevention and care in Virginia. The committee meets six times a year for a full day in the Richmond area. For more information on the CHPG or membership, please visit the [webpage](#).

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Quality Management Meeting

The next Virginia Statewide Ryan White Cross-Parts Collaborative Quality Management Advisory Committee (QMAC) Quarterly Meeting is Wednesday, August 30, 2017, in Charlottesville.

Quarterly meetings build capacity among Ryan White providers (A, B, C, D and F) and consumers. Meetings also provide an opportunity to share quality improvement best

practices and strengthen quality infrastructure. For more information, please contact [Safere Diawara](#) at (804) 864-2021.

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Female Condoms back in Stock!

Due to a manufacturer change, DDP was unable to restock female condoms until recently and orders were restricted. Interested agencies may now order larger quantities of female condoms. Both health districts and community partners are eligible for the VDH Condom Distribution Program.



Along with female condoms, organizations may now order up to 25,000 male condoms each quarter or 100,000 condoms a year. Agencies with multiple sites may be approved to order more. Female condoms and non-latex condoms are available for all sites. Please direct questions on the condom distribution program to [Beth Marschak](#) at (804) 864-8008.

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